



**Department of Energy**  
Idaho Operations Office  
1955 Fremont Avenue  
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

December 17, 2004

Paul H. Divjak, President/General Manager  
BBWI  
2525 N. Fremont Ave., MS 3898  
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83415

**SUBJECT:** Authorization to Perform Phase I Operations at the Accelerated Retrieval Project (EM-WM-04-085)

**References:** 1) Letter from T. J. Jackson to E. D. Sellers, Subject: Completion of the DOE Operational Readiness Review for the Accelerated Retrieval Project (EM-AM-04-086), dated 12/15/2004

2) RWMC Timely Order 04-L-37, Overburden Removal

3) Startup Plan for the Accelerated Retrieval Project at the Subsurface Disposal Area, PLN-1794, Rev. 3, dated 12/16/2004

Dear Mr. Divjak:

The Department of Energy has completed an Operational Readiness Review for the Accelerated Retrieval Project. The conclusions of the report are that the ARP is ready to commence with operations with the exception of three pre-start findings (ref. 1).

This letter authorizes removal of overburden material as phase I of the startup of the Accelerated Retrieval Project as a hazards category 2 non-reactor nuclear facility at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex. Overburden removal is authorized in accordance with reference 2. This startup must be in compliance with the approved Startup Plan for the Accelerated Retrieval Project (ref. 3).

In accordance with reference 3, authorization to commence with exhumation of waste is dependent upon BBWI certification to NE-ID that all outstanding items identified in the startup plan have been addressed and adequately closed. This must be followed by NE-ID line management documentation that the startup plan has been followed and all outstanding items have been closed.

Mr. Divjak

- 2 -

December 17, 2004

If you have any questions concerning this authorization, please contact Rick Provencher at 526-7300.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth D. Sellers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Elizabeth D. Sellers, Manager  
Idaho Operations Office